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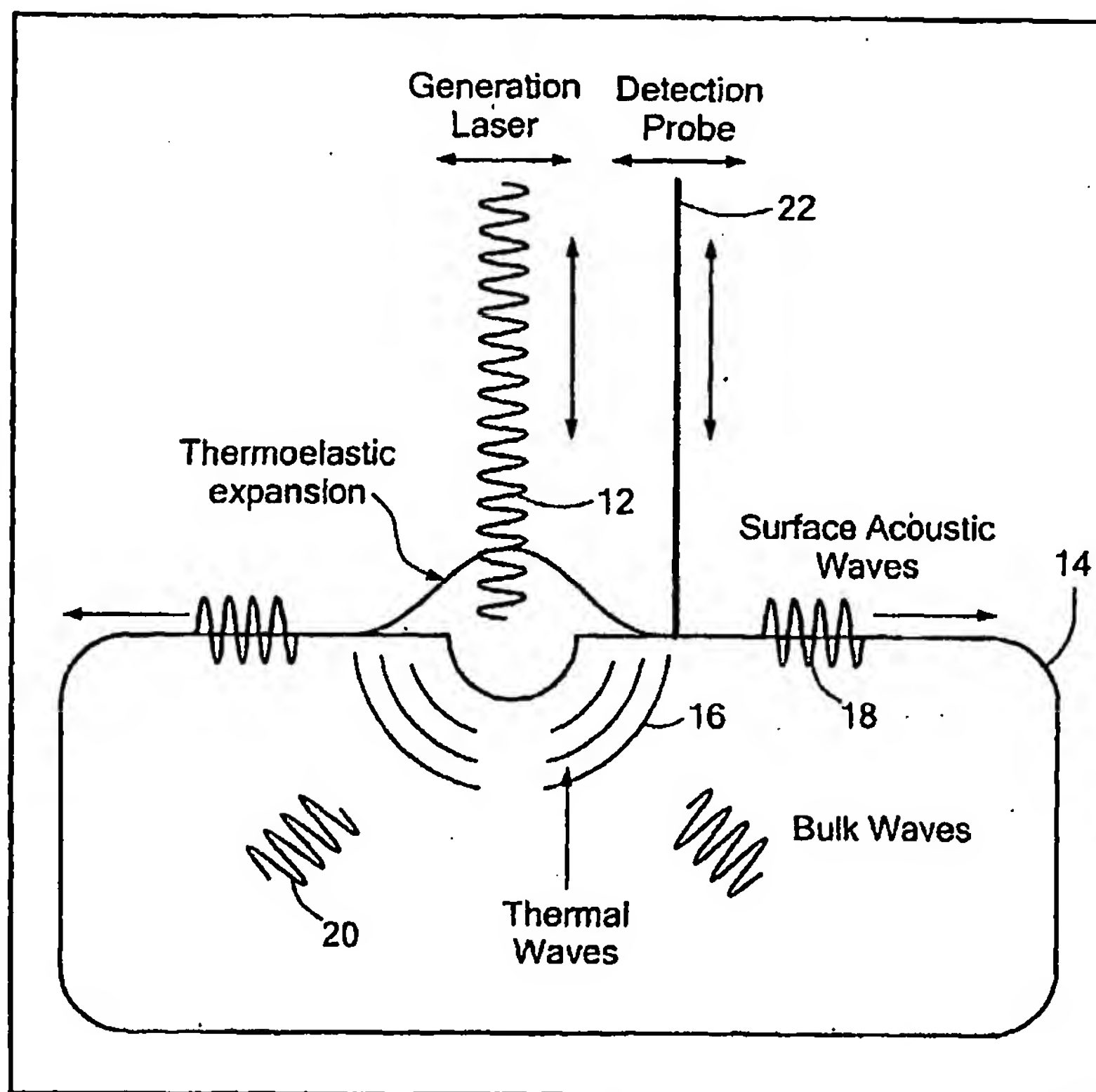
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(54) Title: CHARACTERIZATION OF MICRO- AND NANO SCALE MATERIALS BY ACOUSTIC WAVE GENERATION WITH A CW MODULATED LASER



(57) Abstract: An acoustic wave generating laser beam (12) is amplitude modulated with continuous wave modulation of a frequency in the megahertz to gigahertz range and an optical system directs the modulated radiation to a surface of a thin surface layer (14). This in turn causes an acoustic wave (16, 18, 20) that is sensed and analyzed to provide an indication of properties of the thin surface layer

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